

REPORT ON OYSTER BEDS ALARMING OFFICIALS

Public Health Service Asked to
Further Investigate
Potomac Beds.

PHILLIPS FINDS FAULT
WITH RECENT INQUIRY
Conclusions Held to Be at Variance
With Credited Opinion.

FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL SURVEY
If Department of Agriculture Is
Sustained District Will Take Up
Disinfection of Disease-
Bearing Sewage.

A thorough investigation to determine whether the oyster beds of the Potomac river are infected with sewage pollution may be undertaken by the public health and marine hospital service.

Has Been Studying Subject.
For some time Mr. Phillips has been studying the subject of sewage disposal in the Potomac with reference to its effect upon the healthfulness of oysters taken from the lower beds of the river.

In his annual report, submitted to the District Commissioners today, he discusses the subject at length.

Reference is made in the report to the examinations of the Department of Agriculture, which were made in March and May of this year, and upon which, he states, "surprising conclusions were based." The conclusions drawn by the experts conducting the examination, he points out, "at variance with all credited opinion as to the sanitation of river waters."

It is known that Mr. Phillips considers Washington much better off than other cities with respect to the effect of its sewage upon the healthfulness of oysters shipped to it from the nearest supply points. He believes that the two examinations made by the Department of Agriculture are insufficient upon which to base the conclusions drawn.

Matter Should Be Sifted.
"A bacteriological survey of the river may result in substantiating the claims advanced," said Mr. Phillips, "but the matter should be sifted to the bottom and no stone left unturned to get at all the facts in the case."

The public health and marine hospital service is giving serious consideration to the recommendation, it is understood, that a survey be conducted, it will be an exhaustive one.

In his report the sewer department official says:

Attention has been given to the subject of sewage disposal in the Potomac river with reference to its effect upon the healthfulness of oysters taken from the beds of the lower Potomac, from 90 to 100 miles below Washington.

While it is recognized that the river carries an appreciable load of organic pollution from communities above Washington, and, on the other hand, receives, therefrom, from numerous communities below Washington, and nearer the oyster beds, yet, as the largest user of the river for sewage disposal, it appears advisable to thoroughly investigate the subject.

To this end all available data as to the location of the oyster beds, and the location of the sewerage disposal, and the location of the oyster beds have been mapped, and early in the year the subject of a bacteriological survey of the river was taken up with the public health and marine hospital service, with the suggestion that this survey should be systematically carried on through at least one year, with weekly examinations or observations, and if so confirmed, it would afford all assistance possible in this matter.

Should Be Undertaken.
This survey should be undertaken. It is considered especially important in view of the fact that the only data on the subject is from two isolated examinations of the river, made in March and May, 1912, by the Department of Agriculture, upon which surprising conclusions were based.

These widely published conclusions, from this very incomplete survey, are at variance with all credited opinion as to the sanitation of river waters, in so far as they indicate that the Potomac is a great and practically indefinite distance from the source, a thorough and systematic investigation of the subject would be of great value.

Should these conclusions be corroborated, it is suggested that a practical remedy may be found in local and specific disinfection of disease-bearing sewage, rather than in any general treatment of all sewage, and if so confirmed, it becomes apparent that, to be effective, it would be necessary to apply disinfection to the entire Potomac river, and throughout the many thousands of square miles of the Potomac basin.

Checking of Pollution.
Another interesting feature of Mr. Phillips' report deals with the plan now being worked out to prevent pollution of streams in the Rock Creek and Anacostia basins with sewage drainage from near-by Maryland communities.

If the Maryland authorities will provide for the construction of sewers from these communities to the District line in conjunction with the state board, and it is anticipated that full reports will be submitted to the next session of the legislature in January, 1913.

Legislation Is Deferred.
"But specific legislation such as would be required on behalf of the District to put joint drainage plans into effect cannot be formulated in advance of the full development of these state plans, and this subject has therefore been deferred."

awaiting the action of the Maryland authorities.

The volume of sewage discharge into these streams has been considerably augmented during the year, and some of the stream conditions are noticeably bad.

In the meantime, the development of the District sewerage system has been so far advanced as to permit re-opening the Maryland sanitary drainage at the District line in Rock Creek valley within twelve months after legislation authorizing same became effective, and certainly as soon as the earliest possible development of the Maryland drainage could require.

In the Anacostia valley a considerably longer period, not less than five years, must elapse before the sewer drainage in this valley can be cared for.

The report shows that 24,900,000 gallons of sewage and 800,000 gallons of storm water were pumped during the year, while the pumping plant was in operation without any interruption. The entire twelve months, coal consumed amounted to 9,337,920 pounds.

STATE OYSTER BOARD
NAMED BY GOVERNORS
Maryland and Virginia Scientists to
Leave Tuesday to Make Their
Own Investigation.

Representative Parran of Maryland, chairman of the commission appointed by the governors of Virginia and Maryland to make, with the bureau of chemistry, a new investigation of alleged pollution of Potomac river oysters, announced today that the governors of the two states had named the chemists and bacteriologists who are to make the investigation, and that the board of inquiry would start down the river early next week, probably Tuesday, depending upon what boat is obtained from either Maryland or the federal government for the purpose.

Personnel of Board.
Gov. Meade of Virginia has appointed Dr. Mann Ferguson of Richmond as Virginia's bacteriologist, and Dr. E. W. Magruder as chemist for that state.

Gov. Goldsborough of Maryland has appointed Dr. Royall W. Stokes of Baltimore as bacteriologist for Maryland and Wyatt W. Randall of Baltimore as chemist.

Dr. Mann Ferguson of Richmond as Virginia's bacteriologist, and Dr. E. W. Magruder as chemist for that state.

May Use Revenue Cutter.
Representative Parran is endeavoring to obtain the use of the Maryland state fisheries steamer Governor Thomas for the use of the scientists in their trip down the Potomac.

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PICKS OUT 'WHITE' Becker Trial Witness Says He Saw Lewis Fire.

CANNOT IDENTIFY OTHERS
Testifies to Seeing Three Men With
Revolvers.

CHAUFFEUR RYAN UNCERTAIN
Unable to Swear Any of Four Gun-
men in Court Was Rosen-
thal Slayer.

NEW YORK, October 11.—Thomas Ryan, a chauffeur and eyewitness of the murder, was the first witness called today at the trial of Lieut. Becker, charged with the murder of Herman Rosenthal.

His appearance was a surprise to the defense, for his name had not previously figured in the case. According to Ryan's story, only one man fired the shot that killed Rosenthal.

Did you not say yesterday in the presence of Officer Fife, when those four men charged with the murder were brought to the bar, that the man called 'Whitey' Lewis fired the shot?

"I don't believe I could," mumbled the witness.

Here Justice Goff took a hand in the questioning and put the witness through a severe examination. The chauffeur appeared flustered, and his answers were inaudible.

"Did you not say yesterday you had seen this man in court?" resumed Mr. Moss.

Question Is Allowed.
This time Justice Goff allowed the question.

"I said I thought I knew the man, but did not know his name," answered the witness.

The four gunmen were then brought into the witness box, and Ryan was asked to pick out the man who fired the shot.

"Who did you refer to of these four men?" asked Mr. Moss.

Ryan appeared frightened. "I didn't refer to anybody," he declared, shifting his eyes quickly over the four men.

"Didn't you tell the assistant district attorney in the prison yesterday, when you were asked to identify the man, that you were afraid to put your hands on him?" pursued Mr. Moss.

"I was afraid because I might put my hand on the wrong man," answered Ryan in a weak voice.

"Can you swear," interrupted Justice Goff, "that any one of these four men fired the shot? Look at the prisoners."

Witness Is Nervous.
Ryan gave a feeble look at the four. Every one of the gunmen was eyeing him.

"I cannot," he replied in a trembling voice. He was then allowed to go. Ryan was followed on the stand by Giovanni Stanich, also an eyewitness. Stanich is a member of the defense.

The witness saw three men with revolvers, but was not sure whether more than one fired at Rosenthal. Again the four were brought into court, this time in the face of the defense, which was overruled.

Stanich left the witness stand and with out hesitation picked out the man who fired the shot. He was the man called 'Whitey' Lewis.

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WIFE SITS NEAR BECKER DURING FIGHT FOR LIFE

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NEAR IRONWORKERS Gompers in St. Louis During Meeting, Says Witness.

QUESTIONS AROUSE KERN
Objects to Mention of Labor Head in
"Dynamite Conspiracy" Trial.

IS UPHELD BY THE COURT
Government Hopes to Prove Plots
Were Hatched During Convention
in Missouri Metropolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, October 11.—Whether Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was present at a certain labor union meeting held in St. Louis, Mo., in November, 1910, was asked by government attorneys in the "dynamite conspiracy" trial today.

Frank Schilling, clerk of a hotel in St. Louis, testified that the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers was holding its annual convention in St. Louis at the time. He named Frank M. Ryan, Chicago; Michael J. Young, Boston; F. J. McNulty, Newark, N. J.; M. B. Madden, Chicago; and Olaf A. Tveitmo, San Francisco, as registered at the hotel.

The convention was held the month after the Los Angeles Times disaster, and it was at this time the government charges that Tveitmo told Ryan, president of the ironworkers, that the "Pacific coast expected a Christmas present" in the shape of more explosions. Tveitmo also was described as "the big paymaster" who financed the dynamites. At the St. Louis meeting he is charged with promoting the Llewellyn iron works explosion.

Quizzed as to Gompers.
"Was Mr. Gompers registered at the hotel at this time?" asked Attorney J. W. Noel.

"He wasn't registered, but he was around the hotel a good deal," answered the witness.

United States Senator J. W. Kern, for the defense, objected.

"Mr. Gompers is not a defendant. He has nothing to do with the case."

"Nothing other than it will be shown he had something to do with the defense of the conspirators in the state of California," replied Mr. Noel.

Judge A. B. Anderson ruled he at present saw no relevancy in the mention of Mr. Gompers' name and if none appeared in future testimony he would so instruct the jury.

Objection also was made to the mention of McNulty and Madden, who are not defendants.

Government Has Exhibit.
Pieces of exploded bombs, old tin cans in which nitroglycerin had been carried, cartridges, fuses and magazine guns were put in readiness by the government today to be exhibited to the jury.

Arrangements Under Way.
Originally a visit to Mr. Vernon was planned, but the Gettysburg trip has been decided on. In the event satisfactory arrangements can be made, the trip will be taken probably the latter part of the month.

It is announced that the District of Columbia's health department exhibit at the International Congress on Hygiene and Demography will be made permanent.

Mr. Nichols, who prepared the exhibit in the Star's fly campaign for a part of the exhibit.

Dr. Arthur L. Murray of the department, who arranged the exhibit and also supervised the fly war, is bringing to a close his study of the effect of the campaign on local health conditions.

The conclusions drawn by Dr. Murray will be set forth in a report which will be prepared for publication in The Star.

Wilson to Take Rest.
His Largest Meeting in New York
Will Be October 19.

WOOSTER, Ohio, October 11.—Announcement was made by Gov. Woodrow Wilson today that what probably would be his largest meeting in New York city would take place Saturday, October 19, at Carnegie Hall under the auspices of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Wilson today said that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the "Dago" problem, and that he would be present to deliver a speech.

After a conference, it was announced that the governor would speak only at the end of the meeting, and that the program would be a series of addresses by leading manufacturers and business men.

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